Larry Hogan *Governor*

Boyd K. Rutherford *Lt. Governor*



Rona E. Kramer Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

MEMORANDUM # 16-02 March 10, 2016

TO:

Area Agency on Aging Directors

Maryland Access Point Staff

FROM:

Dina Gordon, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT:

Update on Eligibility Requirements for Select Income-Based Federal and State

Programs

The Maryland Department of Aging periodically informs the Aging Network about changes in eligibility criteria for various income-based Federal and State programs that can benefit older adults and adults with disabilities. This memorandum is to alert you about eligibility criteria changes. The attached chart outlines income criteria for "individual" and "couple" households. For larger households, eligibility criteria may be obtained from the individual programs. Dates for eligibility level changes vary by program, and are noted on the chart. Occasionally, new programs are implemented or date changes for existing programs may not align with the periodic updates. MDoA tracks such changes and will endeavor to keep you informed as soon as new information becomes available to our Department. Changes generally occur on or about January 1, and July 1 in a calendar year.

To find the latest memoranda and chart, start on the home page of the MDoA's website, www.aging.maryland.gov. Go to "For Professionals" in the left column, and click on "Eligibility Criteria for Federal & State Programs."

301 West Preston Street • Suite 1007 • Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2374

Local: 410-767-1100 • Toll Free: 1-800-243-3425 • TTY users call via Maryland Relay

Fax: 410-333-7943 • www.aging.maryland.gov

Memorandum # 16-02 March 10, 2016

Maryland Access Point (MAP) Specialists are located in Area Agencies on Aging throughout the State, and are available to assist the general public with accessing public and private programs and services that may assist the individual with remaining in a home or community-based setting or transition out of a nursing facility. MAP Specialists are trained across a wide continuum to provide basic information, benefits counseling, strategic planning to maintain independence in the community, and access to long term services and supports. MAP Specialists include Information and Assistance staff and Options Counselors. They work with a wide range of consumers, including older adults, family caregivers, and adults age 18 years and older with disabilities. There are three ways to access MAP.

- 1. Call the statewide toll-free phone number at 1-844-MAP-LINK (1-844-627-5465).
- 2. Connect via the dedicated website at www.marylandaccesspoint.info.
- 3. Twenty physical locations across Maryland.

2016 MEMO - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SELECTED FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS

| Federal/State | | Monthly | Annual | Annual Asset | Notes |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | (or Annual) | Asset Test | Test | |
| | | Income Test | Individuals | Couple/ | |
| | | <u>Couples</u> | | Household of | |
| | | | | <u>Two</u> | |
| Federal | | | | | Change effective: (January 1, |
| Poverty | \$11,880/yr | \$16,020/yr | | | 2016) |
| Guidelines | | | | | |
| | | | | | Source: |
| | | | | | https://www.federalregister.g |
| | | | | | ov/articles/2016/01/25/2016- |
| | | | | | 01450/annual-update-of-the- |
| | | | | | hhs-poverty-guidelines#t-1 |

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Home and Community Services

| Federal/State | | Monthly | Annual | Annual | Notes |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | (or Annual) | Asset Test | Asset Test | |
| | | Income Test | <u>Individuals</u> | Couple/ | |
| | | <u>Couples</u> | | <u>Household</u> | |
| | | | | of Two | |
| Accessible Homes for Seniors | Maximum | Maximum | No Asset | No Asset | Accessible Homes for Seniors provides |
| | Statewide | Statewide | Test | Test | zero-interest loans <u>and grants</u> for |
| | \$48,000 /yr | \$55,000/yr | | | home modifications that support aging |
| | | | | | in place for individuals age 55 or older. |
| | Calvert, | Calvert, | | | Loan payments are deferred for 30 |
| | Charles, | Charles, | | | years or until the sale or transfer of |
| | Frederick, | Frederick, | | | ownership of the home. If the senior |
| | Montgomery | Montgomery | | | resides in the home of a relative, |
| | & Prince | & Prince | | | eligibility is based on the owner's |
| | George's | George's | | | income and is determined on a case- |
| | Counties | Counties | | | by-case basis. Seniors living with a |
| | \$61,150/yr | \$69,850/yr | | | relative or child with a disability in a |
| | | | | | home owned by the senior may qualify |
| | | | | | on a case-by-case basis. |
| | | | | | Next expected change: 7/1/2016 |
| | | | | | Next expected change. 7/1/2010 |
| | | | | | Source: |
| | | | | | http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/P |
| | | | | | ages/ahsp/default.aspx |
| Attendant Care Program | <\$119,999/ | <\$119,999 / | No Asset | No Asset | The Attendant Care Program provides |
| | year | year | Test | Test | financial reimbursement to individuals |
| | | | | | with long-term or severe physical |
| | | | | | disabilities who require attendant |
| | | | | | services such as in-home assistance |
| | | | | | with personal care, household chores, |
| | | | | | and transportation. |
| | | | | | Effective 7/1/2015 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | Source: |
| | | | | | http://mdod.maryland.gov/acp/Pages/Attenda |
| | | | | | nt-Care-Home.aspx |

| Home and Community Services | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | | Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples | Annual Asset Test Individuals | Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two | Notes | | |
| Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP) Subsidy | \$2,793/ Month \$33,520/ Year | \$3,653/ Month \$43,835/ Year | \$27,375 | \$35,587 | The Congregate Housing Services Program is to provide support services and State subsidies to eligible residents of low and moderate income senior housing who, due to advanced age or chronic health conditions, need daily help with activities such as meals, housekeeping, and personal services. Next change expected: July 1, 2016 Source: http://www.aging.maryland.gov/CHSP.html | | |
| Community First Choice (CFC)- (Over 65 or under 65 with Medicare & Non –Parent/ Caregiver Relative) | \$350/ month \$4,200/ Year | \$392/ month \$4,704/ Year | \$2,500 | \$3,000 | Maryland's Community First Choice option provides community services and supports to enable older adults and people with disabilities to live in their own homes. CFC does not include services in assisted living or nursing facilities. Effective 1/1/2016 Source: https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/long-termcare/pages/Community-First-Choice.aspx | | |

| Home and Community Services | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples | Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u> | Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two | Notes | | |
| | | No Asset Test | No Asset Test | Maryland's Community First Choice option provides community services and supports to enable older adults and people with disabilities to live in their own homes. CFC does not include services in assisted living or nursing facilities. Effective 1/1/2016 Source: https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/long termcare/pages/Community-First-Choice.aspx | | |
| - | | | \$3,000 | Maryland's Community First Choice option provides community services and supports to enable older adults and people with disabilities to live in their own homes. CFC does not include services in assisted living or nursing facilities. Effective 1/1/2016 Source: https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/long-termcare/pages/Community-First-Choice.aspx | | |

| Home and Community Services | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Federal/State | | Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples | Annual Asset Test Individuals | Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two | Notes | |
| Community Personal Assistance Service (CPAS) | Same as CFC | Same as CFC | Same as CFC | Same as CFC | CPAS assists those who are frail or disabled with personal care and other activities such as grocery shopping and laundry. A Registered Nurse monitors care through a home visit every other month. Effective 1/1/2016 Source: https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/long termcare/SiteAssets/SitePages/Community%20First%20Choice/CPAS%20Fact% 20Sheet%2010.14.15.pdf | |
| Food Supplemental Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) | \$1,276/ Month \$15,312/ Year | \$1,726/ Month \$20,712/ Year | \$2,001 | \$3,001 | The Food Supplemental Program helps low-income households buy the food they need for good health. Note: financial eligibility varies based on the household size. Effective 1/1/2016 Source: http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1276 | |

| | Home and Community Services | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | | Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples | Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u> | Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two | Notes | | | |
| Home and Community-Based Options Waiver | \$2,199/ month | To qualify, only individual income is considered | \$2,000 or \$2,500 depending on eligibility category | \$2,500 | Maryland's Home and Community-Based Options Waiver provides community services and supports to enable older adults and people with physical disabilities to live in their own homes. Effective: 1/1/2015 Source: https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/longtermcare/SiteAssets/SitePages/Community%20First%20Choice/HCBOW%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf | | | |
| Section 811 Project Rental Assistance | See Attachment | See Attachment | | | The Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program is a program for individuals with disabilities. It will assist with rent payment while the individual lives in participating units. The tenant pays 30% of their income for rent and utilities, and the program pays the rest of the rent directly to the landlord. Source: http://mdod.maryland.gov/housing/Pages/section811.aspx | | | |

| Home and Community Services | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | | Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples | Annual Asset Test Individuals | Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household | Notes | | |
| Senior Assisted Living Group Home Subsidy Program | \$2,793/ Month \$33,520/ Year | \$3,653/ Month \$43,835/ Year | \$11,000 | \$14,000 | The Senior Assisted Group Home Subsidy Program provides access to assisted living in small group homes which are licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for 4 -16 residents. Next expected change: 6/2016 Contact: Terri Williams Maryland Department of Aging terril.williams@maryland.gov | | |
| Senior Care Program | \$2,793/ Month \$33,520/ Year | \$3,653/ Month \$43,835/ Year | \$11,000 | \$14,000 | The Senior Care Program provides inhome services and other support services to persons 65 and older. Next expected change date: 6/2016 Contact: Dakota Burgess Maryland Department of Aging dakota.burgess@maryland.gov | | |

Medical Assistance Programs

| Federal/State | | Monthly | Annual | Annual | Notes |
|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | (or Annual) | Asset Test | Asset Test | |
| | | Income Test | <u>Individuals</u> | Couple/ | |
| | | <u>Couples</u> | | Household | |
| Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) | 5,921/ | \$7,949/ | Less than | of Two Less than | The Employed Individuals with Disabilities |
| Program | Month | Month | \$10,000 in | \$15,000 in | extends Medical Assistance health benefits to |
| 110610111 | Wienen | IVIONEII | countable | countable | working Marylanders with disabilities. This |
| | \$71,052/ | \$95,388/ | resources | resources | program lets individuals return to work and keep |
| | Year | Year | | | health benefits by paying a small fee. Individuals |
| | | | | | in EID must be between ages 18-64. |
| | | | | | Source: |
| | | | | | https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/eid/SitePages/Ho |
| Andiad Assistance (Andriesid) | ¢2507 | ¢202/ | ć2.500 | ¢2.000 | me.aspx#Income_Limit |
| Medical Assistance (Medicaid) For ABD (Aged, Blind or Disabled) | \$350/ Month | \$392/ month | \$2,500 | \$3,000 | Medical Assistance (also called Medicaid) is a program that pays the medical bills of people |
| Tot Abb (Aged, billid of bisabled) | IVIOITUI | | | | who have low income and cannot afford medical |
| | | | | | care. |
| | | | | | Note: financial eligibility varies based on the |
| | | | | | household size. |
| | | | | | Effective: 01/01/2016 |
| | | | | | Source: |
| | | | | | https://mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov/Documents/2015%20I |
| | | | | | ncome%20%20Asset%20Guidelines%20effective%20Janua |
| | | | | | ry%201,%202015.pdf |
| | | | | | Coverage Chart of MCOs. https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/assets/ |
| | | | | | MCO-Comparison-Chart.pdf |
| Medical Assistance (Medicaid) – Spousal | Minimum | Maximum | Minimum | Maximum | Under the Medicaid spousal impoverishment |
| Impoverishment Protection Standards | Monthly | Monthly | Resource | Resource | provisions, a certain amount of the couple's |
| | Maintenance | Maintenance | Standard | Standard | combined resources is protected for the spouse |
| | Needs Allowance | Needs | \$23,844 | \$119,220 | living in the community. |
| | \$1,991.25 | Allowance | | | Effective: 1/1/2016 |
| | | \$2,980.50 | | | Source: |
| | | | | | http://medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program- |
| | | | | | information/by- topics/eligibility/downloads/2016-ssi-and- |
| | | | | | spousal-impoverishment-standards.pdf |
| | | | | | <u>spousarimpovensiiment-stanuarus.pur</u> |

| | Medical Assistance Programs | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | | Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples | Annual Asset Test Individuals | Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household | Notes | | | |
| Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB) | \$1,010/ month | \$1,355/ month | \$7,280 | <u>of Two</u> \$10,930 | QMB Pays Medicare Part A and B premiums, co-payments, and deductibles. *\$20 = Amount of the Monthly SSI Income Disregard Effective:02/2016 Source: http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-population/medicare-medicaid-enrollees- | | | |
| Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) | \$1,208/ month | \$1,622/ month | \$7,280 | \$10,930 | dual-eligibles/seniors-and-medicare-and-medicaid-enrollees.htm Similar to QMB but pays only the part B premium. *\$20 = Amount of the Monthly SSI Income Disregard | | | |
| | | | | | Source: https://www.medicare.gov/your-medicare- costs/help-paying-costs/medicare-savings- program/medicare-savings- programs.html#collapse-2615 | | | |
| Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) II/QI-1 | \$1,357/ month | \$1,823/ month | \$7,280 | \$10,930 | Similar to QMB but pays only the part B premium. *\$20 = Amount of the Monthly SSI Income Disregard Effective: 2/2016 Source: https://www.medicare.gov/your-medicare- | | | |

| | | costs/help-paying-costs/medicare-savings- program/medicare-savings- programs.html#collapse-2624 |
|--|--|---|
| | | |

Prescription Assistance Programs

| | Trescription Assistance Frograms | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | | Monthly (or Annual) | Annual Asset Test | Annual Asset Test | Notes | | | |
| | | Income Test | <u>Individuals</u> | Couple/ | | | | |
| | | <u>Couples</u> | | Household of | | | | |
| | | | | <u>Two</u> | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| "Extra Help" with Medicare Prescription Drug plan | \$17,820/ | \$24,030/ | \$13,640 | \$27,250 | Extra Help from Medicare pays the | | | |
| costs. | year | year | 713,040 | Ψ27,230 | costs of Medicare prescription drug | | | |
| | , | , | | | coverage if you meet the income | | | |
| | | | | | guidelines. | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Effective: 1/1/2016 | | | |
| | | | | | Source: | | | |
| | | | | | http://www.medicare.gov/your- | | | |
| | | | | | medicare-costs/help-paying-costs/save- | | | |
| | | | | | on-drug-costs/save-on-drug-costs.html | | | |
| State of Maryland Senior Prescription Drug Assistance | \$35,640/ | \$48,060/ | No Asset | No Asset Test | The Senior Prescription Drug Assistance | | | |
| Program (SPDAP) | year | year | Test | | Program (SPDAP) provides financial | | | |
| | | | | | assistance to moderate-income | | | |
| | | | | | Maryland residents who are eligible for | | | |
| | | | | | Medicare and are enrolled in a prescription drug plan. | | | |
| | | | | | prescription arag plan. | | | |
| | | | | | Effective: 2/1/2016 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Source: | | | |
| | | | | | www.marylandspdap.com | | | |
| | | | | | http://marylandspdap.com/wp- | | | |
| | | | | | content/uploads/2016/02/SPDAP- | | | |
| | | | | | Application-2-19-2016 With-2016- | | | |
| | | | | | FPGL_Clean.pdf | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Utilities Assistance Program

| Federal/State | Monthly | Monthly | Annual | Annual | Notes |
|---|---|---|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| | (or | (or Annual) | Asset Test | Asset Test | |
| | Annual) | Income | Individuals | Couple/ | |
| | Income | Test | | <u>Household</u> | |
| | Test | <u>Couples</u> | | <u>of Two</u> | |
| | <u>Individuals</u> | | | | |
| Electrical Universal Service Program (EUSP) | \$1,716.00/ Month \$20,598/ Year | \$2,323.00/ Month \$27,878/ Year | No Asset Test | No Asset Test | The Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) assists eligible low-income electric customers with their electric bills. Eligible electric customers may receive help in three ways: 1. Help to pay current electric bills 2. Help to pay past due electric bills 3. Help with energy efficiency measures to reduce future electric bills. Note: financial eligibility varies based on the household size. |
| | | | | | Next expected change:06/30/2016 Source: www.dhr.state.md.us/blog/?page_id=4334 |
| Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) | \$1,716.00/ Month \$20,598/ Year | \$2,323.00/ Month \$27,878/ Year | No Asset Test | No Asset Test | The Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) provides assistance with home heating bills. Limited assistance is available to replace broken or inefficient furnaces. Note: financial eligibility varies based on the household size. Next expected change: 06/30/2016 Source: www.dhr.state.md.us/blog/?page_id=4334 |

| Utilities Assistance Program | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | Monthly (or | Monthly (or Annual) | Annual Asset Test | Annual Asset Test | Notes | | | | |
| | Annual) Income Test | Income Test <u>Couples</u> | Individuals | Couple/ Household of Two | | | | | |
| | Individuals | | | | The Weatherization Assistance Program helps eligible low income households with the installation of energy conservation materials in their dwelling units | | | | |
| | | | | | Effective 2/2016 Source: Note: financial eligibility varies based on the household size. http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/wap/Default.aspx | | | | |

| Others | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Federal/State | Monthly SSI Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) Individual | | Annual Asset Test Individual | Annual Asset Test Couple | Notes | | | | |
| | \$733 | \$1,100 | \$2,000 | \$3,000 | Supplemental Security Income pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. Effective 1/1/2016 Source: http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2015.html http://www.ssa.gov/oact/cola/SSI.html http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/text-eligibility-ussi.htm | | | | |

Attachment: Section 811 Project Rental Assistance -

| FY2015 Area Median Income | | | | 30% income limits | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Maryland County | MSA | Area Median Income | 1 person household | 2 person household | 3 person household | | |
| ALLEGANY | Cumberland, MD-WV | \$51,600 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| ANNE ARUNDEL | Baltimore-Towson, MD | \$89,600 | 18,550 | 21,200 | 23,850 | | |
| BALTIMORE CITY, MD | Baltimore-Towson, MD | \$89,600 | 18,550 | 21,200 | 23,850 | | |
| BALTIMORE | Baltimore-Towson, MD | \$89,600 | 18,550 | 21,200 | 23,850 | | |
| CALVERT | Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV | \$109,200 | 22,950 | 26,200 | 29,500 | | |
| CAROLINE | NON METRO AREA | \$70,500 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| CARROLL | Baltimore-Towson, MD | \$89,600 | 18,550 | 21,200 | 23,850 | | |
| CECIL | Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD | \$81,100 | 17,050 | 19,500 | 21,950 | | |
| CHARLES | Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV | \$109,200 | 22,950 | 26,200 | 29,500 | | |
| DORCHESTER | NON METRO AREA | \$60,400 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| FREDERICK | Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV | \$109,200 | 22,950 | 26,200 | 29,500 | | |
| GARRETT | NON METRO AREA | \$59,100 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| HARFCRD | Baltimore-Towson, MD | \$89,600 | 18,550 | 21,200 | 23,850 | | |
| HOWARD | Baltimore-Towson, MD | \$89,600 | 18,550 | 21,200 | 23,850 | | |
| KENT | NON METRO AREA | \$71,800 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| MONTGOMERY | Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV | \$109,200 | 22,950 | 26,200 | 29,500 | | |
| PRINCE GEORGE'S | Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV | \$109,200 | 22,950 | 26,200 | 29,500 | | |
| QUEEN ANNE'S | Baltimore-Towson, MD | \$89,600 | 18,550 | 21,200 | 23,850 | | |
| SOMERSET | Salisbury, MD | \$56,200 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| St. Mary's County | California-Lexington Park | \$99,900 | 20,100 | 23,000 | 25,850 | | |
| TALBOT | NON METRO AREA | \$78,900 | 16,600 | 18,950 | 21,300 | | |
| WASHINGTON | Hagerstown-Martinsburg, MD-WV | \$65,300 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| WICOMICO | Salisbury, MD | \$60,700 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |
| WORCESTER | Salisbury, MD | \$73,200 | 15,950 | 18,200 | 20,500 | | |